

# Synergo Arts

Ergonomics for Artists and Artisans

# News!

December 2009

Happy Holidays from Synergo Arts, and Welcome to our first newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy and share the newsletter with friends, family, and colleagues. If you'd prefer not to receive future issues please use the link below to opt-out.



Trainer Juana Ramos rocks the bench



Local Mayan carpenter Mario Chavajay Navichoc and his mentor Alex McConnell, gearing-up to make the ergonomic bench for backstrap weavers in Guatemala

## New phase of the bench project

This project helps local people learn to make and use an [ergonomic weaving bench](#) for the benefit of women artisans and their families. A wonderful new magazine, [Hand/Eye](#), published an article on it in November.

Over the summer we completed the resource development phase of the project! In September I delivered the first start-up kit and tech support to Mario Chavajay Navichoc, a Mayan carpenter in the Lake Atitlan region of Guatemala. Mario's mother is a backstrap weaver who leads a women's textile cooperative. He's receiving essential mentoring in carpentry and business skills from our partners Alex McConnell and Barbara Ancheta of the Bob Couchman Education Society. We'll share contact info as soon as Mario is ready to receive orders. Also in September I met with potential partners for weaver training, microfinance, and fabrication of the bench in other regions of Guatemala.

We are seeking funding and partnerships to continue working with communities in Guatemala in 2010 and to expand the project in Mexico.

## Now a tax-exempt organization!

The IRS registered Synergo Arts as a [501\(c\)\(3\) organization](#) this year, thanks to a team of attorneys at [Snell & Wilmer](#) lead by Ana Perez-Arrieta who wrote, "I am happy to help. I believe in the mission of Synergo Arts, and it's exciting to participate in this process." To learn more, check out the success stories in the October newsletter of the [Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation](#).

## Thanks to our volunteers and contributors

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank all the people who gave their expertise, money, and enthusiasm to Synergo Arts during 2009. The majority of our supporters are people like you. We need and appreciate your continued participation.

With warm regards,  
Karen Piegorsch  
President, Synergo Arts

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If you've been thinking of giving to Synergo Arts, but haven't already, [please donate today](#). Good chance to get a 2009 tax deduction.

If you've given already, hooray! Thank you for helping empower artisans, especially those who depend on their craft for survival.

**GoodShop**

Please make every gift count this holiday season. Just go to [GoodShop.com](#), designate us as the cause you support, and then click over to your favorite store. You pay nothing extra. There's no easier way to support us this holiday season! Please spread the word.

[Synergo Arts](#) creates and delivers resources to help artists and artisans around the world use ergonomics to maximize health, income, performance, productivity, creativity, and art or craft quality.

### Board of Directors:

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